How to troubleshoot a file parsing or syntax error

⚠️ **This page has been made public for vendors**

Question

How do I resolve file parsing or syntax issues reported by the Fortify scan?

Answer

Parsing and syntax issues are due to either syntactic errors in the identified file or bugs in Fortify's parser. Assuming the code compiles using a standard parser, it is usually an issue with Fortify. If it is an issue with Fortify then the specific parser errors will not be counted against passing the secure code review validation process.

Follow these steps to resolve other parsing issues:

1. Generate a log file with the debug flag turned on. Debug logs may include additional information for resolving the parsing error. See the technical note "How to create a Fortify log file" for details on generating log files.
2. Review the log file for information related to the parsing error. If this provides the information necessary to resolve the error, then fix the issue and rescan.
3. If the log file does not help fix the problem, it is likely a Fortify parsing bug. Please include a readme file describing the steps taken to resolve the issue and that will be taken into consideration during the review. It is **highly** recommended to also report the issue to Fortify technical support (fortifytechsupport@hpe.com). This may provide further assistance in resolving the issue or provide confirmation that it is an issue in Fortify so it can be resolved in future releases of the software.

Additional Notes

- Parsing errors that have been confirmed by Fortify technical support are posted to the OISSWA blog. The blog may be cited as the resolution for any issues that are posted there.
- If Fortify technical support confirms a Fortify parsing error, the OIS Software Assurance Team requests that the confirmation is passed to the team so they can distribute the issue to other VA development teams.
- Please note that this method of resolving errors reported by Fortify **only** applies to **parsing and syntax errors**. Other errors must either be resolved or confirmed to be issues in the Fortify software.

References

- HPE Fortify Static Code Analyzer User Guide
- Referenced technical notes

HPE Fortify Version	4.40 and later
Programming Language	☑ C/C++ ☑ .NET ☑ Java ☑ Objective-C ☑ Other
Fortify Audit Workbench	☑ Yes ☐ No
Fortify IDE Plugin	☑ Yes ☐ No
Other Fortify Component	☐ Yes ☐ No

Request code review tools, validations, and support HERE.